

§ 578.15

and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from his comrades, or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awards will be made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities against an armed enemy.

(b) *Description.* On a bronze $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cross pattee, a four-bladed propeller $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches across the blades; in the re-entrant angles, rays forming a 1-inch square. The cross is suspended by a plain, straight link from a moired silk ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of stripes of blue ($\frac{7}{64}$ -inch), white ($\frac{9}{64}$ -inch), blue ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), white ($\frac{3}{64}$ -inch), red ($\frac{3}{32}$ -inch), white ($\frac{3}{64}$ -inch), blue ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), white ($\frac{9}{64}$ -inch), and blue ($\frac{7}{64}$ -inch). (Sec. 3749, 70A Stat. 217; 10 U.S.C. 3749, E.O. 4601, March 1, 1927, as amended by E.O. 7786, January 8, 1938, 3 FR 39.)

§ 578.15 Soldier's Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Soldier's Medal was established by Act of Congress July 2, 1926 (10 U.S.C. 3750). It is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, including Reserve Component soldiers not serving in a duty status, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(d), at the time of the heroic act, who distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. The same degree of heroism is required as that for an award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. The performance must have involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy. Awards will not be made solely on the basis of having saved a life.

(b) *Description.* On a $1\frac{3}{8}$ -inch bronze octagon, an eagle displayed, standing on a fasces, between two groups of stars of six and seven, above the group of six a spray of leaves. On the reverse is a shield paly of 13 pieces on the chief, the letters "U.S." supported by sprays of laurel and oak, around the upper edge the inscription "Soldier's Medal," and across the face the words "For Valor." The medal is suspended

32 CFR Ch. V (7-1-08 Edition)

by a rectangular-shaped metal loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of two outside stripes of blue ($\frac{3}{8}$ -inch), the center containing 13 white and red stripes of equal width (7 white and 6 red). (Sec. 3750, 70A Stat. 217; 10 U.S.C. 3750.)

§ 578.16 Bronze Star Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, February 4, 1944 (superseded by E.O. 11046, August 24, 1962 and amended by 10 U.S.C. 1133). It is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after December 7, 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. Per 10 U.S.C. 1133, award of the Bronze Star Medal is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who receive imminent danger pay.

(1) *Heroism.* Awards may be made for acts of heroism, performed under circumstances described above, which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star.

(2) *Meritorious achievement and service.* Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit and meritorious service. The lesser degree than that required for the award of the LM, must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction.

(3) Awards may be made, by letter application to NPRC, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100 (Soldiers who retired or were discharged after October 1, 2002 should send their requests to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, St. Louis, ATTN: AHRC-CC-B, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200), enclosing documentary evidence, if possible, to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after December 6, 1941, has been cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between December 7, 1941

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.17

and September 2, 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement has been otherwise confirmed by documents executed prior to July 1, 1947. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders. Documents executed since August 4, 1944 in connection with recommendations for the award of decorations of higher degree than the Bronze Star Medal will not be used to establish a basis for the award under this paragraph.

(4) Upon letter application, award of the Bronze Star Medal may be made to eligible soldiers who participated in the Philippine Islands Campaign between December 7, 1941 to May 10, 1942. Performance of duty must have been on the island of Luzon or the Harbor Defenses in Corregidor and Bataan. Only soldiers who were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation (redesignated the Presidential Unit Citation on November 3, 1966) may be awarded this decoration. Letter application should be sent to NPRC (see paragraph (a)(3) of this section).

(b) *Description.* A bronze star 1½ inches in circumscribing diameter. In the center thereof is a ⅜-inch diameter raised bronze star, the center line of all rays of both stars coinciding. The reverse has the inscription "Heroic or Meritorious Achievement." The star is suspended by a rectangular-shaped loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon 1⅜ inches in length and 1⅜ inches in width, composed of stripes of white (⅓-inch), red (⅓-inch), white (⅓-inch), blue (⅓-inch), white (⅓-inch), red (⅓-inch), and white (⅓-inch). A bronze block letter "V" ¼ inch in height with serifs at the top of the members is worn on the suspension and service ribbons of the Bronze Star Medal to denote an award made for heroism (valor). Not more than one "V" device will be worn. When one or more oak-leaf clusters appear on the same ribbon the "V" device is worn on the wearer's right. (E.O. 9419, February 4, 1944, 9 FR 1495)

§ 578.17 Purple Heart.

(a) *Criteria.* The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on Au-

gust 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War. It was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders (WDGO) 3, 1932 and is currently awarded pursuant to Executive Order 11016, April 25, 1962; Executive Order 12464, February 23, 1984; Public Law 98-525, October 19, 1984. Public Law 103-160, November 30, 1993; Public Law 104-106, February 10, 1996; and Public Law 105-85, November 18, 1997. It is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917 who has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded:

(1) In any action against an enemy of the United States.

(2) In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged.

(3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(4) As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces.

(5) As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.

(6) After March 28, 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Army, or jointly by the Secretaries of the separate armed services concerned if persons from more than one service are wounded in the attack.

(7) After March 28, 1973, as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force.

(b) While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.